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Academic Computing Newsletter: January 1992

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Academic Computing Newsletter

Academic Computing Services
State University of New York, College at Brockport
Volume 7, Number 2---January 1992

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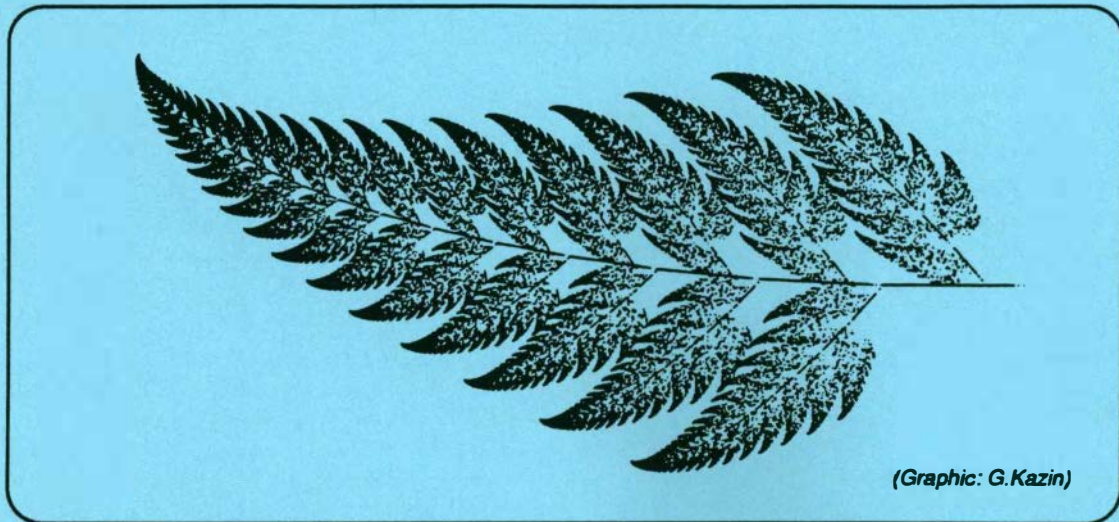
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Experimenting with Ethernet

ACS has begun experimenting with Ethernet, one of the recommendations suggested for the campus in a network design study completed last fall. The small (5 station) network's chief advantage is that it is FAST, and information flows at 10 megabits per second, rather than 9600 baud. Eventually, as the campus is connected to the Internet, it is conceivable that PC/Ethernet users will be able to TELNET to any other TELNET site worldwide for remote login. (In contrast, Bitnet does not allow remote login and is currently limited to 9600 baud. Bitnet will eventually be integrated into the Internet). The Weather lab has been one of the first areas to download information on a trial basis from UCAR (University Corporation of Atmospheric Research) in Colorado to a workstation equipped with Ethernet capability.

Ethernet has the advantages of being reliable, highly efficient, stable and widely used in academic institutions. An Ethernet board (\$200) is required for each PC. The current five-station setup can be compared to a very fast LAN (local area network) without the file server. Some of the Ethernet cards for this trial project were obtained from NAEIR, a consortium that donates items for educational non-profit purposes. ACS is proud to be pioneering what could eventually grow into a campus-wide network.

Fractal Fern



Shown above is a probabilistic fractal fern produced in Postscript. Fractals are geometric objects that are self-similar at an infinity of scales. Postscript is a high level page description language for raster printers. The image was produced from code printed in an article in PC Techniques (Dec. 1991, v2, n5, p. 39) and spooled to the laser printer on the Prime. Apple LaserWriters also have PostScript capabilities.

New MAIL Enhancements

Enhancements continue to be made to the Prime's Mail system. For example, incoming mail will now be listed with the most recent mail at the top of the screen. This is an important feature for users who are dialing in with a 1200 baud modem and just want to see any new mail.

LUSER

The ability to use local e-mail has been substantially enhanced for student users by the addition of a utility called LUSER. Acting as a type of 'electronic phone book', LUSER will help a user identify another Brockport student's e-mail address when sending mail. Type:

LUSER -l lastname

This will identify all Brockport students with a given last name and their Prime ID. Currently LUSER only works for local Prime student IDs and cannot be used to obtain an address for a student on another system at another school.

FACUSER

What good is e-mail if no one knows your ID? FACUSER is a new utility that has been created to address this question. Entering:

FACUSER -l lastname

will indicate a faculty or staff's BITNET ID so you will know if they can be sent mail.

ACS is trying to further standardize MAIL. Bitnet users can now send outgoing mail (including INTERBIT mail) using the local MAIL system. We would like to ask for user input regarding incoming mail. Some users would like to see a common mailbox for both incoming local and BITNET mail. Others want to retain a separate mailbox for local and off-campus mail. Currently we retain separate mailboxes but are considering moving toward one.

If you wish to unify local and off-campus mail into one mailbox, send the following e-mail message to STAFF:

YES, ONE MAILBOX

If you wish to continue the current mail system, send the following E-Mail message to STAFF:

NO, SEPARATE MAILBOXES

Your input is important. We want to hear from you!

ACS Graduate Assistant

ACS is pleased to welcome its newest graduate assistant, Denise Lourette. Denise comes to us with nine (9) years of experience from the IBM Corp. as a Systems Engineer. She is available for training, PC support, and has a strong office background (word processing, electronic mail, data base, reporting, etc.). Denise is completing a Master's degree in Elementary Education.

C++ Compiler Installed

C++, a popular computer language with object-oriented extensions, has been installed on the Prime over the semester break. The compiler has the advantage of being very fast. Object-oriented languages are becoming an important part of the programming world. Prime's version of the compiler is called CXX and can be invoked from the OK, prompt by typing:

CXX filename

Additional documentation is located in the reference racks at ACS.

9600 Baud Modems Are Here

Two new 9600 baud high speed modems have been added for users dialing into the Prime (including the library). The new numbers are 637-2180 (off campus) and 395-2180 (on campus). These modems greatly enhance response time for users. We anticipate that as modem costs continue to drop, high speed dial-up access will become an increasingly viable choice for ACS and the college.

Accessing the University of Buffalo Library

As a Prime user you can now access the University of Buffalo Library and search its online card catalog. Save yourself time and expense on your next research project. Give it a try as follows:

From Primos OK prompt, type:

TELNET BISON	(to connect to UB)
VT100	(for most PCs; or enter ? for a listing of other terminal types)
BCAT	(to get into the main library catalog)
t= or a=	(do searching - for 'Title =' or 'Author =')
...	
BYE	(to finish)

Accessing the University of Rochester Library

If you have a PC and a modem you can dial into the University of Rochester Library and search their online card catalog. Their system is called CHESTER. To access CHESTER:

Protocol — 300-9600 baud, full duplex, no local echo, s-7-1 or n-8-1;

Dial — 442-6210 or 442-7750;

Enter CALL CHESTER;

At 'CALL COMPLETE', wait 5 seconds, then hit carriage return once or twice;

At 'CAT=Online Cat', enter CAT.

This information is available on a handout in the information area of the main U. of R. library.

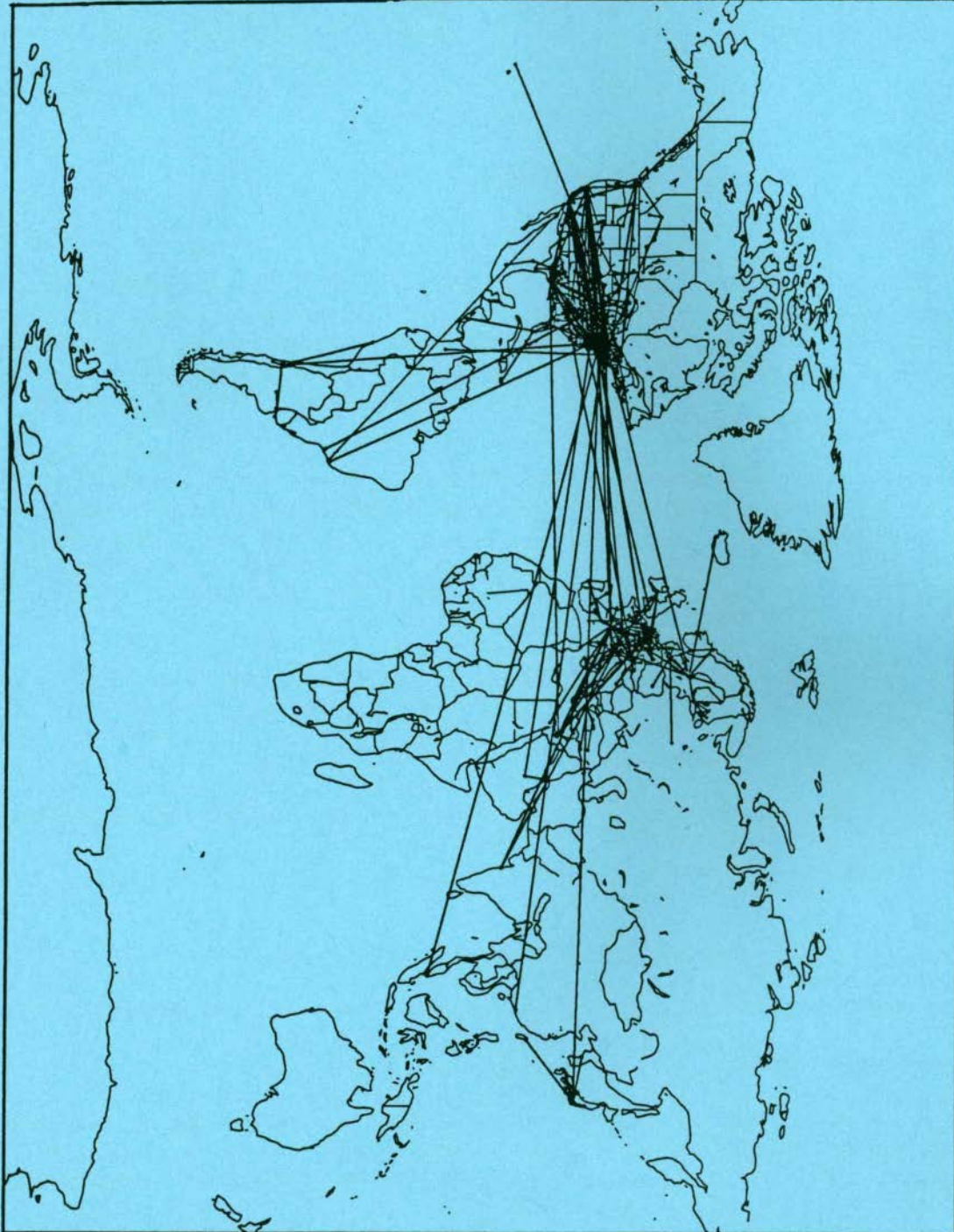
Drake Library Access Reminder

We'd be remiss if we didn't mention accessing Brockport's own Drake Memorial Library. The card catalog can be searched from any campus PC that is connected to the Equinox as well as from a PC with a modem at home. The Prime user-id is LIBRARY and the password is DRAKE. Instructions are available at the circulation desk of the Library as well as in the documentation rack at ACS.

Serials are being added to the Dynix system. Users will be able to search for journal and magazine titles in addition to traditional book holdings.

BITNET Map

From a connection between two schools in 1981, Bitnet connectivity has grown enormously as the map below illustrates. Bitnet is a communications network that allows e-mail to be sent to other higher education sites around the world. Currently, approximately 150 Brockport faculty and staff have Bitnet accounts. If you'd like to start learning how to use Bitnet, why not attend an introductory session? See page 8 for the schedule of dates and times. (Map provided courtesy of Princeton University via Bitnet.)



BITNET connectivity, worldwide
All published links are shown

Prepared by Princeton University at Sun Nov 17 12:35:40 1991
netmap-1.5 program by Brian Reed, map data from World Data Bank II
Gell Stereographic Projection, Map center: [15°N, 0°W]

PC Articles

ACM Journals Winner

Academic Computing Services was recently selected in a random drawing of Association of Computing Machinery (ACM) institutional members to award a year's subscription of ACM journals to a Computer Science major. This award was specifically targeted to encourage more women students to become involved in computing and technical areas. We are happy to report that a Brockport student will be receiving the journals for the coming year; the Computer Science Department will notify the lucky winner.

MS-DOS 5.0

MS-DOS 5.0 has been installed on all the PC's in ACS Drake and Cooper C29. Significant improvements include an easy to use editor called EDIT (to replace EDLIN) and the addition of online help. For example, you can type HELP FORMAT to get help with using the format command, or HELP COPY to remember the correct syntax needed for copying files.

DOSKEYS is a new command that keeps a command line history. This is particularly useful when you have several commands to repeat and you wish to invoke the last line (or second or third) last line entered.

Type VER (for VERSION) at the C:> prompt to learn what version of DOS you are using; maybe it's time for an upgrade of your software.

New MACS In Cooper

Two new MAC Classics have been installed in Cooper C29. Some of the software installed on them includes MacWrite (word processing) and PageMaker (desktop publishing). They are attached to an Imagewriter printer for dot matrix printing. Come in and impress your peers (or yourself) with what you can do on them.

New Version of Kermit Available

KERMIT 3.11 is now available. KERMIT is communications software that makes it possible for PC's to talk to host systems (like the PRIME). This new modification makes communicating faster and more efficient than previous levels of KERMIT. This revision will also support native mode TCP/IP. A version for Windows is also available. You can obtain a copy from the User Services Coordinator by bringing a blank diskette to ACS Drake.

WordPerfect In Bookstore

The campus bookstore will soon be carrying Word Perfect 5.1 (word processing software) for individual personal purchase. Word Perfect for Windows will also be available. These are full versions of the program (not limited or 'student' versions), cost \$135, and represent a significant savings over retail price. It is hoped the bookstore will begin stocking this software before fall.

Apple/MAC/IBM Conversion

ACS is offering a new trial service in Cooper C29. Users can now convert Apple IIe text files to either MAC or IBM compatible files. The basic restriction is that these conversions are limited to ASCII text transfers only (not programs); formatting is not guaranteed.

Conversions to and from Mac to IBM are also possible by using Kermit and a serial modem. Please call Anne at 5470 to make arrangements to learn how to transfer these types of files.

New Release of PC-SOLVE

PC-SOLVE Version 2.2 has recently been received by ACS. This new release should prove easier to use and faster than before. Under terms covered by the campus license for this product, if you'd like to receive a copy of PC-SOLVE bring a blank diskette to ACS and we will be happy to accommodate.

Statistical Navigator

ACS has purchased a copy of Statistical Navigator, DOS compatible software from Idea Works, Inc. that helps users design and plan an experiment and choose appropriate statistical tests for particular applications.

If you can't remember when to use t-tests, Anova's, regression, etc., the assumptions associated with each type of test, levels of independent and dependent variables, or appropriate sample sizes, Statistical Navigator might be just the software to guide you. This software will not do the tests for you, but will make recommendations regarding appropriate tests.

As always, responsibility for choosing correct tests rests with the experimenter, but Statistical Navigator can provide reassurance, suggest alternative methods or point to additional worthwhile references.

More than one faculty member has said, 'I wish software like this was available when I was in school!' For further information, contact Mary Jo at 2368.

Users In the News

M. Beers (Education and Human Development) took part in a panel discussion at a seminar called, 'Multimedia Instruction in the Real World,' at Syracuse University in October. M. Orzech and A. Parsons served on the program registration committee for this event.

J. Maier (English) published an article in an electronic journal called "Postmodern Culture." The journal is distributed via BITNET, the worldwide higher education communications network and insofar as we know, represents one of Brockport's first successful submissions to an e-mail journal. Paper copies of the journal are also available. The article, which appeared in the May 1991 (v1, n3) issue, can be retrieved by typing the following at Primos OK prompt:

```
OK,          Mail LISTSERV@NCSUVM.CC.NCSU.EDU
Subject:     (hit return)
Filename:    (hit return)
Message:     get maier 591 pmc-list f=mail
```

J. Michaels (Math) co-authored a new book, Applications of Discrete Mathematics. All text and graphics were formatted using TeX, a computer typesetting program on a Macintosh. The publication lag between submitting the camera ready text and receiving the finished, bound book was twelve (12) weeks! As published authors can attest, this is certainly an enviable achievement.

Versions of TeX are available for many computer platforms including the Prime, PC's and Mac's. For demonstrations or an introduction, call Mary Jo at 2368.

L. Balog (Health Science), C. Howe and A. Rancourt (Recreation/Leisure) were among faculty participating in a workshop titled 'Incorporating Macintosh Computing Technology into the Higher Education Curriculum' at Cornell University during the Christmas break.

MAC Videotapes Available

A series of Macintosh videotapes are available for loan at no charge through the SUNY FACT (Faculty Access to Computer Training) Library in Syracuse. Titles include tapes on software programs such as Word Perfect 2.0, Pagemaker 4.0, Excel, Hypercard, and System 7. Instructions for requesting videotapes from the SUNY Training Center are available by calling Mary Jo Orzech at 2368.

Thanks for the Memory

Q. What do you call 386 20 Mhz PC's loaned by Zenith to help run fall registration at Brockport?

A. Used computers! This arrangement led to the acquisition of a number of 386SX's at a discounted price this fall. Special thanks to John Grace, our Zenith representative, for his efforts on behalf of Brockport students. Developing and maintaining an on-going partnership with all our vendors is an important factor that keeps ACS operating. We are grateful for this opportunity to publicly say thanks and continue to encourage cooperative arrangements with vendors like IBM, Apple and others.

Call for Papers

A call for papers for the SUNY COA (Computing Officer's Association) conference to be held at Saratoga Springs April 8-10, 1992 has been issued for SUNY faculty to discuss achievements, problems and successes in computing and in all areas of technological innovation.

The 3rd Annual Problem Solving Conference at Wells College in June is also soliciting papers, presentations, and poster sessions for all aspects of creative problem solving. The Wells Conference is being held June 18-20.

Both of these conferences are sponsored, in part, by the SUNY FACT (Faculty Access to Computing Technology) program. Details and applications are available at ACS, or by reading the PUBLIC mailbox in e-mail.

Carpel Tunnel Syndrome

Repetitive motion activities such as constant computer keyboarding are sometimes associated with aching joints, painful fingers and/or carpel tunnel syndrome. Proper ergonomics and adaptive devices such as wrist and footrests can go a long way toward relieving some of the symptoms associated with repetitive motion disorders. Glare and improper lighting are other common sources of fatigue, irritation and/or eyestrain for computer operators.

S. Mookerjee (Phys. Ed. and Sport) and M. Orzech (ACS) will present an information session on practical, low cost things you can do to prevent or lessen the effects of such repetitive activities. This wellness-oriented session will be held on Monday, Feb. 3, at 11 am in the Instructional Seminar Lab (ISL) at ACS Drake. All are invited.

In Every Issue

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How can I format a high capacity disk to make it usable in public labs on campus and in the dorms?

A. If you are using DOS 5.0, type:

FORMAT A: /F:720

This formats the disk as a 720K floppy disk that can be used in any of the labs. This command is especially useful, for example, if you start your work in Dailey Hall, and want to use any of the other public labs to continue or finish a project.

Q. I am concerned about the amount of paper used by the computer center. What can I do to help?

A. Thanks for your concern. Individual action is important. You can help by:

- printing only what you need
- not using the laser printers as copiers
- using the recycling bins
- replacing handouts in the document racks for others to use
- checking the top-of-form setting on the printer to be sure it is correct for the next person
- be sure you have not scattered material and papers about before you leave

Paper supplies usually begin to run low during the spring semester. We appreciate your help in this matter.

Q. I'd like to use a PC and large screen projection unit (LCD panel) to demonstrate some software in my class. Where are they available; how do I make arrangements?

A. Currently there are four buildings on campus where you can do the type of demonstration you'd like. Ultimately, we would like at least one to be placed in each classroom building. The LCD panels are CGA or EGA (not VGA) compatible; show blue or gray shades (not color), and will not work with Macs. Listed below are the locations and people to contact to reserve them for class use:

Cooper	Anne Parsons, Academic Computing Services, 5470.
Drake	" " " "
Edwards	AV Tech Services, 2660.
Hartwell (both floors)	Composition Program, 128 Hartwell, 2343

Spring Class Schedule Computer Seminars

Academic Computing Services is offering a series of computer seminars beginning Jan. 27 for faculty, staff, and students. The one-hour classes will be held in the Instructional Seminar Lab (AC13) at Academic Computing Services (ground floor Drake). A valid computer account is required for PRIME sessions and can be obtained by completing an application at ACS, M-F, 8 am-5 pm. To guarantee a seat, please register in advance by calling Mary Jo Orzech at 395-2368.

Seminar Schedule

1. Introduction/Overview of ACS facilities (for new faculty and staff users- creating class accounts; reserving the Prime computer classroom (ISL); sending mail to PRIME classes; hardware and software supported)
Mon, Jan 27, 10-11 am or 1-2 pm.

IBM PC Classes:

2. Introduction to MS DOS 3.X (designed for new PC users)
Tues, Jan 28, 2:30-3:30 pm or 6-7 pm.
Fri, Jan 31, 10-11 am.
3. Advanced MS DOS 3.X (directories, batch files, piping, etc.)
Tues, Jan 28, 3:30-4:30 pm or 7-8 pm.
Fri, Jan 31, 11-12 noon.
4. DOS 5.0 overview (Edit, Doskeys, Help feature)
Mon, Feb 3, 1-2 pm.
5. Carpel Tunnel Syndrome (information session)
Mon, Feb 3, 11 am. * (See related article p. 7.)
6. PC Write/Lite (intro to word processing)
Weds, Jan 29, 10-11 am or 1-2 pm.
Tues, Feb 4, 6-7 pm.
7. Lotus 123 (intro to spreadsheets)
Thurs, Jan 30, 10-11 am or 1-2 pm.
8. PC File+ (intro to data bases)
Thurs, Jan 30, 11-12 noon or 2-3 pm.
9. PC-SOLVE (mathematics calculator/problem solving tool)
Thurs, Feb 6, 10-11 am or 1-2 pm.

Prime Classes:

10. Introduction to the Prime computer for new users (logging on, changing passwords, editing, saving, printing files, mail)
Mon, Feb 3, 12-1 pm or 2:30-3:30 pm.
Tues, Feb 4, 11-12 noon or 7-8 pm.
Weds, Feb 5, 10-11 am or 4-5 pm.
Thurs, Feb 6, 11-12 noon or 2-3 pm.
Fri, Feb 7, 12-1 pm or 3:45-4:45 pm.
11. Minitab (statistics package)
Mon, Feb 10, 10-11 am or 1-2 pm.
12. SPSSX (statistics package)
Tues, Feb 11, 11-12 noon or 2-3 pm.
Weds, Feb 12, 1-2 pm.
13. SAS (statistics package)
Thurs, Feb 13, 10-11 am or 1-2 pm.
14. SAS Graph (graphics package)
Thurs, Feb 13, 11-12 noon or 2-3 pm.
15. BITNET (higher education worldwide communication network)
Fri, Feb 7, 10-11 am or 1-2 pm.
Fri, Feb 14, 11-12 noon or 2-3 pm.
16. Kermit 3.11 (communications, uploading and downloading files)
Fri, Feb 7, 11-12 noon or 2-3 pm.
Fri, Feb 14, 12-1 pm or 3-4 pm.
17. PRIME INFORMATION (PICK database program)
Tues, Feb 18, 10-11 am.
18. TeX (typesetting and text formatting program)
Tues, Feb 18, 1-2 pm.

* New Offering

PC Software Holdings at ACS as of 01/10/92

IBM PC software:

Operating Systems:

Zenith DOS v3.2, v3.3+, 4.01
Zenith OS/2 v1.0
PC DOS v3.2, MS-DOS 5.0

Communications:

*Kermit 3.11
*Procomm 2.42
*IBM Access 1.02

Databases:

Dbase III v1.1, IV v1.1
*Dbase III+ v1.0 Sampler
*PC-File+ v2.0, PC-File:db v1.0, v6.0
Paradox 3.5

Desk Top Publishers:

Ventura Publisher v1.1

Spreadsheets:

Lotus 1-2-3 v1a, 2.01, 2.02
Borland Quattro v1.0, Pro
*PC-Calc+ v1.0, v2.0
*As-Easy-As v.3.0

Diagnostics:

PC Tools Deluxe
Norton Utilities 6.0
CheckIt
Spinrite II

Languages:

IBM PC GKS v1.0
GW Basic, MS Basic
Turbo Assembler 2.0
Turbo Pascal v4.0, v6.0
Turbo C v1.5, C++
Microsoft C v5.0
MS Fortran 4.1
IBM Fortran v2.0
IBM Pascal v2.0, MS Pascal 4
IBM Macro Assembler v2.0
Microsoft Assembler v5.0
Meridian Ada 2.1

*FModula2 v1.0

*PD Prolog v1.91

DRI C v1.0

*Xlisp v2.0

Word Processors:

*PC-Write v3.02
*PC-Lite 1.02
MS Works 1.05
MS Word v4.0
Word Perfect v5.0, v5.1
WordStar Professional 3.31
Professional Write 2.01

Graphics:

Generic CADD
Harvard Presentation Graphics
Inset 2.1
Microsoft Paintbrush v.4.0
PaintShow Plus
Graph-in-the-Box
Presentation Plus
Presentation Partner
PrintShop & Companion

Mathematics/Statistics:

*RURCI (Calculus)
PC:SOLVE
*Mathematica Demo
SPSS/PC+ v.4.0

Misc:

Desqview v1.0
Q & A v3.0
PC Browse
Grammatik 2.0
PICK
The Author
Quest
Notebook II
Clean, Scan

Excel 2.01

PC Windows Software:

Asymetrix Toolbook v1

Ventura for Windows 3.0

Macintosh Software:

Telecommunications:

*Kermit v0.9(40)

DeskTop Publishers:

PageMaker v3.0, 4.0
Ready, Set, Go v4.0

Languages:

Lightspeed C v1.0
Lightspeed Pascal v1.0

Spreadsheets/Stats:

Microsoft Excel v.1
SAS JMP IN v1.0.

Word Processors:

MacWrite
MS Word v4.0

Graphics:

Mac Paint
SuperPaint 2.0

* indicates the software is shareware or public domain.

Most holdings are single copies of programs for individual use in evaluation and demonstration.

They are available from the User Services Coordinator, M-F, 8-am-5 pm for use at ACS.

Student Employees Wanted

ACS is interested in recruiting students wishing to work in the public computing labs located on the ground floor of Drake and Cooper. If you'd like to try your hand at the many tasks that keep our labs running smoothly and gain valuable experience in a computing environment, stop by Cooper C29 to fill out an application. You do not need to be a Computer Science major, or have computing experience; we will train. Spring semester positions are still available for entry-level operations assistants. Applicants must have a College Work Study Award.

DIAL Access Phones

From any phone:

300/1200 baud	637-2181
300/1200 Equinox	637-2191
2400 baud	637-2188
9600 baud	637-2180
300/1200 Microvax	395-5762

From on-campus phones only:

300/1200 baud	ext. 2181
300/1200 Equinox	ext. 2191
2400 baud	ext. 2188
9600 baud	ext. 2180

Set communications parameters to:
Full duplex, Parity=MARK or NONE,
7 data bits, 1 stop bit.

Prime Status Line 395-2390
(A recorded message giving the current
status/availability of the Prime)

ACS Hours

ACS-Drake Lab	x2479
Monday-Thursday	8 am - 11 pm
Friday	8 am - 9 pm
Saturday	1 pm - 9 pm
Sunday	1 pm - 11 pm

ACS-Cooper C29 Lab	x2247
Monday-Thursday	8 am -11 pm
Friday	8 am - 9 pm
Saturday	1 pm - 9 pm
Sunday	1 pm -11 pm

These hours subject to change, based
on availability of student employees.

ACS Staff

Brian Volkmar, Systems Manager
Office: ACS AC-3, ext. 2417

Mary Jo Orzech, User Services Coordinator
Office: ACS AC-11, ext. 2368

Anne Parsons, Computing Labs Coordinator
Office: Cooper C29, ext. 5470
Drake AC-6

Erik Seielstad, Programmer Analyst
Office: ACS AC-6, ext. 2479

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